

Serial No. 10/649,885

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REMARKS

With regard to the objection to claims 13-15, the dependency has been changed to claim 11, thereby avoiding any duplication. With regard to the amendment under 35 U.S.C. §112, the "predetermined condition" has been further defined.

Claims 7-10 and 15-18 were objected to. The allowable elements have been moved into the independent claims, thereby rendering this case in condition for allowance overall. Nevertheless, with respect to the rejection over Brooks, U.S. Patent No. 6,292,339, note that whereas Brooks relies on a symmetry in a current wave form to detect abnormal lamp or arcing conditions, the instant invention utilizes frequency fluctuations indicative of noise, thereby avoiding anticipation. With respect to Stack, U.S. Patent No. 6,222,322, the instant invention represents an improvement utilizing frequency selectivity and processing the energy spectrum used to detect an abnormal condition. In particular, inductive and/or capacitive components are used which have frequency-dependant properties, as now claimed.

To expedite prosecution, questions may be directed to the undersigned attorney by telephone, facsimile or email.

Respectfully submitted,

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